

1-31-2007

Take the pledge! Win the war!

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Recommended Citation

University Relations, "Take the pledge! Win the war!" (2007). *University Relations News Archive*. Paper 914.
http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/914

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Take the pledge! Win the war!

Summary: UMM is engaged in a war where everybody wins. The Campus Wars competition among several Minnesota colleges and universities is designed to lower electricity and heat consumption at a rate that exceeds the month of February over the previous three years.

(January 31, 2007)-The University of Minnesota, Morris is engaged in a war where everybody wins. The Campus Wars competition among several Minnesota colleges and universities, including UMM, Macalester, St. Olaf, Carleton and others, is designed to lower electricity and heat consumption at a rate that exceeds the month of February over the previous three years. UMM joined the “battle” with a kick off on February 1 in the Student Center Turtle Mountain Café.

Chancellor Jacquie Johnson and Campus Sustainability Coordinator, Troy Goodnough, took the Campus Wars’ Pledge and received buttons that will be worn to inform others about the War. Rene Maes from the UMM chapter of MPIRG (Minnesota Public Interest Research Group) swore in Goodnough and Johnson, after which each spoke briefly about the need for conservation, efficiency and responsibility.

The Campus Wars pledge encourages campus-wide cooperation to:

- Turn off the lights in an unoccupied room
- Shorten the length of showers
- Remain aware of water usage in general
- Unplug appliances when not in use

Already several hundred people have joined the competition. Others are encouraged to join as well, said Goodnough, by contacting him at good0044@morris.umn.edu or at 320-589-6303.

In conjunction with the Campus Wars kickoff, Adam Yust, Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA) vice president for student services and a member of MPIRG, encouraged others from the UMM community to adopt green building practices for future construction and renovation at UMM with their signature.

Sustainability awareness continued on February 2 with the movie “An Inconvenient Truth.” These events all coincide with the release of the new United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on global warming.

What can each of us do to win the competition?

- Walk on Wednesday
- Take shorter showers on Saturday and Sunday
- Turn it down on Tuesday and Thursday
- Motivate each other on Monday to stick to it

In addition to the suggestions above, there are other things we can do together as a campus:

1. Turn down the radiator dial in your room or office if it is too hot. Maybe even dial it down to a balmy 68 degrees Fahrenheit. If you live in Pine Hall, Spooner Hall or Blakely Hall or the Apartments, there is a dial in your room.
2. Take a shorter shower. It takes a lot of energy to heat water.
3. Wash your clothes in cold water if you can.
4. Unplug your appliances, TV and computer when not in use.
5. Turn off the power strip that powers your electronic gadgets. Power strips can still burn energy if not turned off. Best to unplug it if unsure.
6. Put your computer on standby if you are leaving it for a couple of minutes.
7. Talk to your friends about what they are doing!

Campus Wars is a win-win competition. Whether or not we win the college competition, UMM will come out in front, as the campus community that continues to work toward its longstanding pledge toward renewable energy and sustainability.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.